

Good afternoon, everyone. I'm Elyana Sutin, the Regional Judicial Officer from EPA in Denver, Colorado. Thank you all for coming. I will be chairing the hearing today. In addition to myself, there are other EPA staff here to assist in this hearing to ensure everyone who wants to speak has the opportunity to do so. I would like to introduce them before we get started:

Douglas Minter – Team Lead of the Underground Injection Unit in OWP

Valois Shea – Underground Injection Unit in OWP

Lynne Newton - Underground Injection Unit in OWP

Rich Mylott – Public Affairs Specialist in Office of Communications

Katherin Hall – Attorney and Presiding Officer in Office of Regional Counsel

On March 6, 2017 EPA issued two draft Underground Injection Control (UIC) Area Permits to Powertech (USA) Inc., for injection activities related to uranium recovery near Edgemont, South Dakota. The draft permits include a UIC Class III Area Permit for injection wells for the in-situ recovery of uranium and a UIC Class V Area Permit for deep injection wells for disposal of treated in-situ recovery process waste fluids. The EPA is also proposing an aquifer exemption approval in connection with the draft UIC Class III Area Permit. We are here today to listen to your comments on these area permits and aquifer exemption.

The public comment period is open until May 19, 2017. In addition to this hearing, four public hearings will be held in May. These hearings will be May 8 and 9 in Rapid City, South Dakota at the Best Western Ramkota Hotel, May 10 in Hot Springs, South Dakota at the Mueller Center and May 11 in Edgemont, South Dakota at the St. James Catholic Church. For more information on times and location addresses please visit the registration table or EPA's website.

In a moment, Ms. Shea will explain in more detail what was proposed in the notice. But before I turn it over to her, let me explain a bit about how today's hearing will work.

I will call speakers to the microphone who have filled out a card at the registration table. When it is your turn to speak, please state your name before you begin your testimony. Please spell your name to help the court reporter.

In order to be fair to everyone, we will limit your testimony to 5 minutes each. We will signal to you when you have one minute left to speak. When 5 minutes has passed, I will ask you to complete your testimony. Please try to be as succinct and on point as you can. If I find that you are straying from the topic at hand, I will interrupt and ask that you please return to the issue before us. If we have time at the end and everyone has had the chance to speak and you have more to say than the five minutes you were given, then I will allow people to get back up and finish their comments.

After you finish your testimony, members of the panel may ask clarifying questions. We are not here to explain the basis for the proposal. The notice does that. Nor can we engage in a back-and-forth discussion of the proposal or respond to your comments during this hearing. The purpose of the hearing is to receive your input. We will consider and then respond to all comments received during this hearing, as well as all written comments, in the final permits and aquifer exemption determination.

We are recording the hearing today/tonight. So be assured that your comments will be considered. The court reporter sitting to my left/right will be preparing a transcript of today's/tonight's proceeding that will be available for anyone who wants to see it. The transcript is part of the record and will be included in the docket for this matter. The docket is where EPA collects materials it has considered in its action, including public comments. The docket is available on the internet for review, at <https://www.epa.gov/uic>, or you can view a hard copy at EPA's Denver Office. The transcript of this hearing will also be available in the docket.

If you have written copies of your testimony, please give a copy to our staff at the registration table. This will be helpful as we prepare the transcript.

If you have other written comments or supporting documentation, you may leave those at the registration table, and we will make sure they are entered into the docket for this proposed action. You also may submit written comments directly to the docket through May 19. Instructions for submitting comments can be found at the registration table.

I will now ask Ms. Shea to provide more information...

CONCLUSION

____ Before we conclude this public hearing, is there anyone else who would like to comment? If there are no further comments, I will conclude this public hearing. Thank you all for participating today. The hearing is now closed.